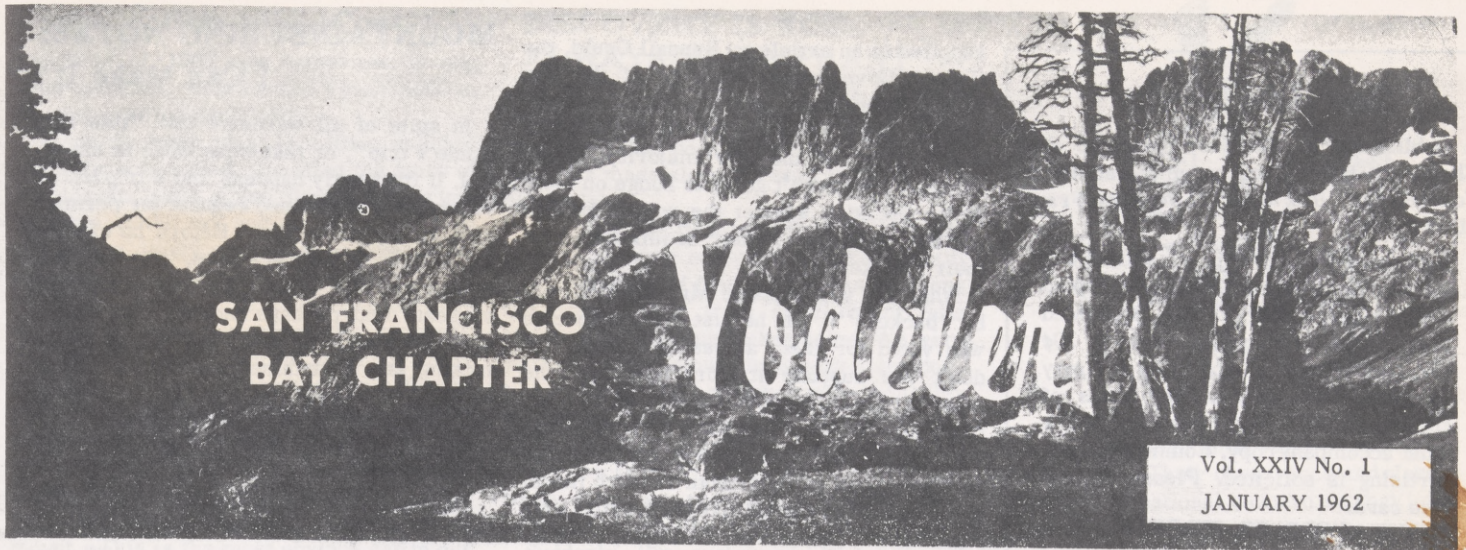

Vol. XXIV No. 1
JANUARY 1962

CONSERVATION IN 1962: A CHALLENGING PROSPECT

The year 1962 brings zero on the countdown for many special projects in which conservationists are interested. For the Wilderness Bill it is probably NOW—or far in the Future—during this session of Congress. It must clear the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and pass the House itself before adjournment in midsummer. The last call for protective measures at Rainbow Bridge may come this year, and this will surely be one of the year's most vigorous battles.

Point Reyes National Seashore, which is the special project of the San Francisco Bay chapter, has an excellent start on the race through Congress, where it also must pass the House. Most of our California congressmen are all for the project but it will need the knowledge and enthusiasm of supporters in 49 other States too. The New York Times ran a fine long article on Point Reyes on Nov. 14 which will be read very widely.

A procession of California's park and recreation problems came before the State Senate Fact Finding Committee on Natural Resources at San Francisco on Dec. 13th at a hearing on the financing of a program for acquisition and development of beach, park, recreation and historic sites; in other words, the proposed State bond issue for recreation, which will be the highlight of State conservation efforts this year. Under Chairman Senator J. Howard Williams, and with the author of the legislation, Senator Ronald Cameron, present, the group of senators heard leaders of conservation and civic organizations speak their minds on the need for more parks.

Charles DeTurk, Director of the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, first outlined his program, for which he would like a minimum of $163,000,000, about half of which would be for northern California. In the immediate Bay Area the plans call for acquisition of 28,000 acres, to cost about $10,000,000, and

CONTINUED PAGE 3

CLUB CONFERENCE TO BE IN SANTA BARBARA, APRIL 7-8

With the theme of "The Sierra Club — The Trail Ahead", the 1962 Club Conference will be held in Santa Barbara on April 7-8. Formerly referred to as I & E Conference, it is sponsored by the Sierra Club Council to give the leaders and potential leaders of the Chapters and Committees of the Club an opportunity to learn what IS and CAN BE accomplished by the Club. And to give them and the Club renewed vitality.

The Program of the Conference will be interesting and unique. The arrangements are on a cordial and friendly basis—there will be hospitality available in private homes.

Please include this Conference in the schedule of the Club unit to which you belong, and also in your personal plans. The Conference will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, and will end at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Luncheon Saturday and Sunday and dinner Saturday night will be available at Conference headquarters at a nominal cost. A registration fee of $1.50 per person will be charged. Mrs. Dorothy Otto, 136 Cedar Lane, Santa Barbara, will handle hospitality and reservations.

SNOW MUSEUM AUDUBON LECTURE

A filmed adventure into almost inaccessible western mountain regions. "Pika Country", will be personally narrated by naturalist - photographer Emerson Scott. Please note: One performance only - Oakland Auditorium Theater, January 18 at 8 p.m. - tickets at the door: $1; students 50 cents. Audubon Wildlife Film Series sponsored by Snow Museum, Oakland.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

The Manual of Ski Mountaineering, published by the Sierra Club, will be available around the first of January. This hardbound, well illustrated book may be obtained for $2.95 at the Club Office.

BREAKING NEW TRAILS: OUTING TO HAWAII

The Sierra Club Outing Committee is planning to conduct a nine-day trip to the Fiftieth State, Hawaii, during Easter week, April 13-22, 1962. Although the exact itinerary has not been completed, the trip will be on the "Big Island", the Island of Hawaii, which has varied climatic conditions ranging from heavy rainfall to desert, and changes in terrain that extend from sea level to 13,796 feet (Mauna Kea). This will be no regular tourist trip, but an outing conducted in the traditional Sierra Club manner. No time is allotted for the usual tourist attractions or the many points of interest in the Islands which anyone can visit on his own. The purpose of this trip is to visit some of the outstanding natural features of Hawaii in as primitive a manner as possible.

We hope to spend a day or two on a beach at the start of the trip, to rest and shed some of the cluttered feelings of civilization. There will be several days spent around the Kilauea craters to explore the craters, the deserts, the kipukas (primeval forests isolated by lava flows) and the fern forests. There are other possibilities not yet decided upon, such as a visit to the north east coast, the Kohala Ditch Trail which traverses a series of luxuriant gorges, or a hiking trip around Mauna Kea with possibly an ascent of this mountain. The final itinerary will be decided in February, after I make a three-day scouting trip to the island, but I want to assure everyone that whatever the final plan, it will be a wonderful trip.

The trip starts at the San Francisco Airport where we board a chartered DC7C of Pan American Airlines sometime Friday evening, April 13. We plan to arrive in Hilo, after breakfast on the plane, about 7:30 a.m., board chartered buses and go directly to our first camp. The trip will probably be a series of base camps supplied by four-wheel drive jeeps. We will end the trip on Sunday, April 22, arriving at the airport in Hilo early enough to return to

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Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

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MEANING FOR CONSERVATION IN MARIN'S NEW ORDER

There was great importance for all conservationists in the recent recall election in South Marin—Sausalito, Mill Valley, Belvedere-Tiburon, Bolinas-Stinson Beach—by which Peter Behr, a Sierra Club member, supplanted J. Walter Blair.

What got most Marin voters angriest was unquestionably the Board of Supervisors' stop-work order on the Frank Lloyd Wright county center and the attempt to abolish the job of county Administrator. These two issues did have a meaningful relationship with the development of Marin, hence with conservation.

But it was also part of Mr. Behr's platform that a scenic road, rather than a freeway, should be built in any eventual improvement of State Route 1 (Shoreline Highway). And he emphasized the preservation from overbuilding of the shore of Richardson's Bay, where developers had won Mr. Blair's consent to multiple dwelling zoning.

The main importance of Mr. Behr's victory is that it tips the usual voting majority of Marin's Board in the direction of more planning and more public services; many of the worst decisions of the past year had been by 3-2 votes, with Chairman Fusselman and Inverness Supervisor George Ludy supplying the other "economy bloc" votes.

An interesting commentary on our money-influenced American political system was supplied in an article by Randall Gould, the County Government reporter of the San Rafael Independent Journal. Although Fusselman and Ludy were interested in being conciliatory to the new majority, Gould wrote, they weren't going to budge on their major decision against the county administrator because of their commitments to their "backers".

What do you suppose Mr. Gould meant by "backers"? Did he just mean the people who voted for them at past elections? Or don't you suppose it more likely that he meant the people who contributed to their campaign funds? And isn't it galling that, while real estate developers and contractors are free to contribute to such funds, public-interest groups like the Scenic Roads Association, Conservation League, even the Sierra Club itself could never do so — the penalty: to be sternly called to account as "lobbies."

The entire year-end issue of Life magazine is devoted to the American Outdoors. Articles by Joseph Wood Krutch, among others, astounding wild-life photos by George Silk, and a big spread on Scenic Roads for California are features that will interest Sierra Clubbers.

The Scenic Roads Association reminds you that District IV of the Division of Highways is going right ahead, blunderbuss fashion, with its choice of route for the "expressway" version of the Coast Road. That means that in a few days we will all learn whether Tamalpais Valley, Muir Beach, and downtown Stinson Beach are going to be bulldozed aside to make room for four lanes of limited-access road suitable for heavy trucks. In any event, it is certain that grave damage will be done to those spectacular cliffs.

When this announcement comes out, all citizens have a right, in fact a duty, to express their opinions. The place to express them, at this stage, is the Governor's office. Pressure from developers and commercial interests has brought the Highway people to the point of planning a four-lane road long before it is necessary—they have admitted this in public in debate with a Scenic Roads Association representative.

It might be a good idea to tear out that section of Life and send it to the Governor too.

Your Yodeleditor covered the 'Tropic of Cancer' trial in Marin last week, where Henry Miller's famous stream-of-consciousness novel was given a reluctant O.K. by a non-bookreading jury. Is there a conservation angle in all this? We thought there was: namely, the decadence and despair in Miller's novel are among other things an urban phenomenon. If there was one thing that the writer conveyed above all others, it was the suffocation of city life. And mark this: Henry Miller now lives down at Big Sur. P.D.W.

MOUNTAINEERING NOTES: I Can Make It?

In spite of all warnings that "this is a grade 9 trip", or that experience is essential, it frequently happens that a trip leader receives a telephoned request for permission to go on a trip. Before he can say a word, the timid voice asks, "Do you think I can make it?" The trip leader winces and suggests that perhaps another, less strenuous trip might be suitable. Hiking, knapsacking and mountaineering are for enjoyment. The person who commits himself to too much the first time is bound to be miserable, and he makes it miserable for the leader, too.

On each of our two Mountaineering Training Trips last summer there was one individual who had considerable difficulty making it to the base camp. When they finally did arrive, they were unable to participate in the day's training program.

Had our screening mechanism broken down? Not exactly - these people were considered to have had sufficient knapsacking experience. It was simply a matter of physical conditioning.

Let's face it. Many of us have sedentary occupations and do not stay in condition the entire year. It is likely that we go through the painful process of "getting in shape" each June. By the end of the summer we are in pretty good form. Then we take it easy until the following June and go through the whole process again.

If you want to get more enjoyment from mountaineering trips or knapsacking trips, there is something you can do. Try to stay active throughout the year by frequent walking or hiking.

In May, as the summer mountaineering season approaches, daylight lasts longer. Try taking mid-week conditioner hikes (preferably with loaded pack) before or after dinner. It would be most pleasant if you could hike in areas such as Mt. Tamalpais or Tilden Park. The objectives are to get your body used to going up and down hill and to toughen up your feet.

For your first mountain trip, it would be wise to pick one of the easier high-altitude knapsacking weekends. Conditions are different where the air is thin, so it is better to find out what you can do without becoming exhausted or getting altitude sickness.

Then keep in shape. For mountaineering training trips, your last mountain knapsacking trip should have been no more than four weeks ago.

—Bill Engs

Get aquainted with the Mountaineering Section. Attend our picture night Wednesday, 17 January. Slides and movies of mountaineering trips will be shown with commentary by section leaders. The time is 7:30 p.m.; the place is Women's City Club, 465 Post Street, San Francisco.

Conservation 1962 (Cont.)

provision of 1000 new campsites, among other benefits, with another $15,000,000 to develop existing park lands.

Along the north coast 14 million would be spent for acquisition. He cited the story of the Hearst Castle at San Simeon as a prime example of the tax and economic benefits which are likely to follow acquisition of private property for State recreation.

For the Sierra Club, David Brower gave a general endorsement of the proposal, emphasizing the universal need for more recreation space, on the principle that he who opens local recreation also saves the National Parks from disastrous overcrowding. Randal Dickey spoke for the Regional Parks Association, bringing out the point that need for regional park space is paramount. This is the most obvious gap in our park system, the lack of large recreational space within a forty-mile radius of our cities —close enough for daytime trips, far enough to be fun. The recent State review of recreation needs pointed out this need above all others, yet most county Boards of Supervisors make no move to supply it. Alameda County has no definite plans for parks. This is a field in which Sierra Club chapters can work locally with great effect.

George Collins represented the Marin Conservation League. Make the issue big enough to do a good job, he said, and recalled the first State Bond issue for acquisition of parks in 1928, when William E. Colby was chairman of the Park Commission. That issue was for $6,000,000 and it took eight years to spend it. Now 17 million people want parks immediately. Contra Costa County proposes a bond issue of its own this year for County parks but it also needs State help urgently in order to enlarge Mt. Diablo State Park. Bruce Chamberlin spoke for Contra Costa County Park and Recreation Council, showing pictures and map to demonstrate the contrast of the dwarf park on the giant mountain. He also called attention to the need for scenic strips along the county highways.

A dozen civic organizations were listed on the agenda and all of them urged some form of financing of recreation by the State, whether or not there was additional county or city money furnished by matching funds. The only controversy which showed throughout the hearing was on the degree to which the financing of new acquisitions should dominate the program. Acquisition versus development will be a prominent item in discussions of the bond issue. C.M.C.

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DISCOVERY IS NOT ALWAYS TRIUMPHANT

It was one of those trips that a person remembers forever. The best part of it, of course, had been the many exciting discoveries made along the trail into this high Sierra lake.

Jim was the first to contribute. We had started out quite early while there was still a thick coating of frost on the ground. Along the creek spray from small water falls was frozen into long spikes of ice. We were walking rather slowly up a very steep portion of the trail. Looking across the valley below we could see small flecks of gold autumn colors scattered against the deep green background of conifers. Along the north slope the reds and oranges of vine maples contrasted with the evergreen.

Suddenly Jim exclaimed, "Look!" He rushed to the edge of the trail. There, leaning gracefully against a small rock, its smoother surface glistening in the sunlight, was a splendid specimen. To be sure, it was a species quite commonly known to this area but it seemed a promise of better things to come. Eagerly searching the sides of the trail we continued to climb.

Louise spotted the next one. This was a much rarer and more delicate variety and was partly submerged in a small spring. The narrow edges were pointed, spreading upward toward the sun and along one side was a tiny spot of color. This was really our lucky day.

By this time I was beginning to worry about my ability as a discoverer and began to search more diligently. These specimens are definitely an important ecological

factor in the mountains, valleys, and along the seashore. Their observance and classification is of national concern and may lead to decisive legislative action in the coming years.

Then I spotted one—the most important discovery of the day. It was beside a pine tree and partially concealed by some bright red but lesser species. As I gazed at it in awe, I realized that here was something that could have been passed right by. Perhaps we have become so used to the smaller ones that a larger find, such as this, is mistakenly overlooked. Bending over, I carefully pushed aside the red species and the small plants surrounding it. A tiny drop of dew glistened on one edge.

This partly broken bottle offered potential danger to the unwary hiker. Like the discarded cans found by Jim and Louise, it had been tossed aside by some careless individual who had no concern about those who followed him.

—Susanne Twight

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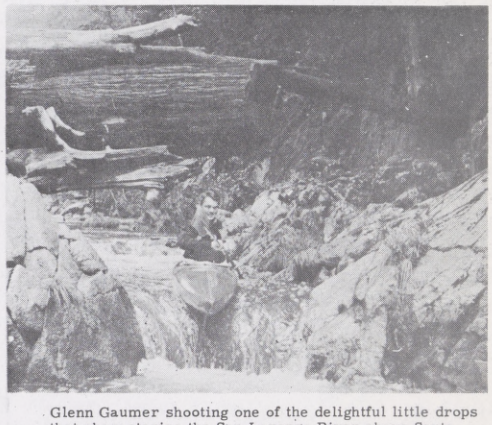

Glenn Gaumer shooting one of the delightful little drops that characterize the San Lorenzo River above Santa Cruz. This trip will tentatively open the RTS season on George Washington's birthday. Photo by P. Whitney.

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SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL MEETING

With a minimum of fuss, discussion and fanfare, the San Francisco group of the Bay Area Chapter met November 30 at the Golden Gate Yacht Club to revive its traditional monthly meetings. The occasion was Harold Gilliam's talk on the history of Drakes Bay and the geology of the Point Reyes area and a showing of the film "An Island in Time."

There is still passionate controversy about the exact location of Sir Francis Drake's landing and careening of the Golden Hind on the north California coast. The Drakes Bay advocate has proofs equally ingenious as the San Francisco Bay debator. For example, a plaque, Mr. Gilliam explained, was found several years ago along San Francisco Bay and identified as Drake's marker of landing. All very well and good, responded a Drakes Bay advocate: He had dropped it there himself, having picked it up first by Drakes Bay.

No less colorful was Mr. Gilliam's discussion of the gology of Point Reyes. Geologists suggest that the Peninsula is the result of a great shifting of the earth's crust. The San Andreas fault now separates the peninsula from the mainland and may be part of a major rift circling the earth. Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon are submerged sections of it. The fact that granite exposed in the Point Reyes area is the same type as that found in the Tehachapi Pass region (the south end of the Sierra Nevada granites) has led to semi-humorous speculation that Los Angeles will eventually drift to the seaward side of San Francisco.

There is a geologist's explanation for vegetation peculiar to the Point Reyes region. The Bishop Pine, for example, was native, and is still, to the great land mass west of the rift (and including the Farallon Islands) that was out of the sea at a time when what is now Marin County on the east side of the fault was submerged.

"An Island in Time" is particularly remarkable to this observer for its shots of birds that frequent the area and of the passage of a whale swimming majestically north along the coast.

Sharing responsibility for the renewal of the San Francisco meetings which flourished during the late 30's and the 40's are Bruce Grant, outgoing chairman of the Bay Chapter Executive Committee: Claudia Owen, who chaired the steering committee, and Bob Golden. Ruth Kaufman accepted, cheerfully as usual, the staggering task of taking phone reservations.

It would be hard to find a more appealing spot for these meetings than the Golden Gate Yacht Club, a small, private club located on a peninsula of the Marina (at the end of Scott Street). From it one hears the foghorns belching from the depths and sees the brilliantly lit San Francisco skyline through ships' masts. A no-host cocktail period preceded a delicious spaghetti dinner served by Manuel Fagundes of the Yacht Club with no apparent surprise at the appetites whetted by sea air.

Familiar faces included those of Dr. Ed Wayburn, Sierra Club president, James Cole of the Regional Office of the National Park Service, who supplied a large-scale map of Point Reyes, and Allan Galloway, the geologist to whom Mr. Gilliam gave credit for much of his information.

Over a hundred people were turned away from the meeting because of space; so reservations should be made shortly after the next announcements are sent to members in San Francisco. The next meeting will probably be the last Thursday in January. The price for dinner will probably be $1.85 again, and an interesting program is promised.

—Mary M. Jasperson

EAST BAY DINNERS

Wednesday, January 10 - The speaker will be Bert Harwell, a world-renowned naturalist. The subject is "Canada from Sea to Sea", and among other features will include Eskimo seal hunt, reindeer roundup, Lake Louise, Banff, and Jasper Park. This film covers Canada's wildlife and a great variety of enchanting scenery from sea to sea.

Wednesday, January 24 - "Fall Color in the High Sierra". Beautiful color pictures taken by Alice Abeel and Jack Bigelow on a trip from Silver Lake in Mono County to Thousand Island Lake.

Both meetings are at Willard Jr. High School, Telegraph and Ward in Berkeley. Program begins at 7:30. Late-comer donations accepted.

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Hawaii (Cont.)

San Francisco in time for a good night's sleep.

I am told the weather is unpredictable during any time of the year. On the east side of the island, such as the Kohala Trail, the rainfall is heavy. At higher elevations, such as Kilauea, the daily storms usually lose their water content before rising that high, and on the south and west sides the climate can be quite dry. It would be best to come equipped with adequate water protection as we may expect both dry and wet weather.

Although this trip logistically is a base camp, commissary will be run as on a High Trip, with a small but adequate staff to set up camp and prepare the food. (In camp volunteers are always needed and welcomed.) Due to the ease of access, the menu probably will be locally obtained of fresh foodstuffs.

We are glad to be able to offer this nine-day trip for $270.00, which includes all expenses from San Francisco and return. As we must have a firm commitment for the airline by January 15, we must have a 100 per cent signup of 80 persons by that date. A deposit of $75.00 per person is required at the time of reservation. Such deposit is non-refundable on cancellation unless your place is filled by someone else. If this trip does not draw the required number of persons, the total deposit will be refunded, otherwise it is non-refundable.

For those who desire to join the trip in Hilo, the trip fee is $80.00, with the usual $10.00 non-refundable deposit. Islanders, or others who wish to come or go on their own, who belong to the Sierra Club or similar type clubs are welcome to join us.

Leader, H. Stewart Kimball.

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